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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF

HEMSWORTH.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1937.

Turner Bros. (Printers) Ltd., Hemsworth. Phone 20.

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Public Health Officers of the Hemsworth Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Part time.

M. B. TAYLOR, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

Sanitary Inspector, Whole time.

S. FOX, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Public Health Department,

Council Offices,

Hemsworth.

Mrs. Dooley and Gentlemen,

I herewith present to you my Annual Report on your district for the year 1937.

This report is drawn up in accordance with Circular 1561 of the Ministry of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

The boundaries of the Hemsworth Urban District still remain the same as in 1936, and consist of 4,163 acres, comprising the townships of Hemsworth, Kinsley and Fitzwilliam. After prolonged consulation between the Ministry of Health and the County Council it was unfortunately found impossible to include the Hemsworth U.D.C. in the County Scheme for amalgamation of areas owing to the increased burden of rates which would have fallen on your district.

The principal industry of the district is coal mining, and its allied trades, the rest of the area being devoted to Agriculture.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for 1937 is 12,780, as compared with 12,890 for 1936.

The Census figures for the past six years being as follows:—

1932—13,080.	1935—13,070.
1933—13,170.	1936—12,890.
1934—13,110.	1937—12,780.

According to the rate books the number of inhabited houses at the end of 1937 was 2,940, as compared with 2,931 in 1936, and 2,089 in 1921 when the Urban District was formed. This number will be greatly increased by the end of 1938.

The Rateable Value at the end of 1937 was £48,313 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £180.

The four previous years' Rateable Values were as follows:—

1933—R.V. £45,535.	1d. Rate=£174.
1934—R.V. £46,793.	1d. Rate=£178.
1935—R.V. £46,951.	1d. Rate=£178.
1936—R.V. £47,511.	1d. Rate=£181.

Report on Unemployment during 1937.

With regard to the extent of unemployment in the district I have to thank the Manager of the Hemsworth Employment Exchange for the following figures, from which you will see that there is a substantial reduction in unemployment except in the case of women.

	April 1937.	April 1938.
Unemployed Men	517	481
Boys	15	2
Women	22	36
Girls	24	18

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		M.	F.
Live Births—			
Legitimate		123	128
Illegitimate		4	2
	Total	127	130
Stillbirths—			
Legitimate		6	11
Illegitimate		1	0
	Total	7	11

Deaths—M. 84. F. 56. Total 140.

Deaths from puerperal causes—

Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Puerperal Causes	1

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—10.95.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—20.1.

Death of Infants under 1 year of M. 9 F. 8

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age is 66.1.

All Infants per 1,000 live births—

	M.	F
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	9	8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	0	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Couph (all ages) ...	...	3
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	...	4

The total number of deaths during the year from all causes was 140 and the causes of death were as follows:—

	M.	F.
Liver Diseases	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	4	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	1
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	4	3
Senility	5	8
Suicide	2	0
Deaths from Violence	6	1
Other defined diseases	3	5
Diabetes	0	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	5	4
Heart Disease	8	6
Other Circulatory Disease	3	1
Bronchitis	5	2
Pneumonia	9	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
Influenza	7	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis	7	2
General Paralysis of Insane	0	1
Cancer	5	8

There have been no specially noteworthy causes of sickness during the year apart from the Influenza epidemic of last January which was universal, and not confined to this district more than any other, and the same applies to Measles which was prevalent at the end of the year.

There are no conditions of occupation or environment which appears to have had any prejudicial effect on the health of the district.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

There have been no developments or change in the following services during the year under review—

Laboratory Facilities.
Ambulance Facilities.
Nursing in the Home.
Clinics and Treatment Centres.
Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

This subject will be found fully dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

SECTION D.

Housing.

1—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	231
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	572
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations	210
(b) Number of inspection made for the purpose	530
(3) Number of dwelling-houses needing further action	103
(a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (3) (a) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	201

2—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	197

3—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18, 23, Housing Act, 1930.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	4
(a) By owners	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.	Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	None
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	—
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930:—

(1) No. of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation	9
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	9
(3) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2

D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	None
(2) Number of Separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	None

4—Unhealthy Areas.

No areas have been declared Clearance Areas during the year.

5—Number of new houses erected during 1937.

(a) By the Local Authority	none completed
(b) By private enterprise	9

6—Housing Conditions.

(1) Total number of houses in the District	2,940
(2) No. of working-class houses included in the above	2,723

(3) General observations as to housing conditions, overcrowding and shortage of houses.

Houses suitable for aged people and low wage earners are still needed. Where individual houses have been closed, great difficulty is experienced in finding accommodation for displaced tenants, suitable for their financial circumstances.

(4) Activity in house building has taken place in Kinsley and Hemsworth.

(5) Housing scheme projected by Local Authority? Sixty houses at Hemsworth are nearing completion and ninety houses are being built at Kinsley. It is anticipated that the majority of these houses at Kinsley will be completed during 1938.

(6) No regulations were made in respect of underground sleeping rooms under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936.

7—Town Planning.

(1) The Council is a member of the Sheffield Region-either the whole or part of the District.

(2) There is no Town Planning Scheme in force for any part of the District.

(3) The Council during 1937 has not passed a Resolution deciding to prepare a Town Planning Scheme for any part of the district.

8—Name and address of Officer designated to make inspections under the Housing Consolidated Regulations—

S. Fox, Council Offices, Hemsworth.

9—No action has been taken to improve the housing conditions of tuberculous families in the District, either by way of building new or special houses, or the granting of special facilities for such families to be housed.

10—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a)	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	136
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	159
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	993
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	None
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	None
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	None
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	None

(e) Other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions which the Medical Officer of Health considers it desirable to report are that all Council houses needing attention are reported upon by the rent collectors and are dealt with by a separate department.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Superivision of Food.

Inspection and Supervision of Food is also dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	1137	3217	241	4523	3225
Number inspected			as above.		
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	15	—	1	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	—	.46	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	—	9	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	11	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	.62	—	—	—

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

There has been no prevalence of notifiable disease during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1937.

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	24	24	0
Diphtheria ...	27	27	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	30	0	13
Erysipelas ...	13	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	0	0	0

Tuberculosis - 1937.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
25—	3	4	2	1	—	—	—	—
35—	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
45—	2	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	12	7	2	3	4	—	—	—

Statement of Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year 1937.

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained.			Cases removed to Hospital
0	Smallpox		
24	Scarlet Fever		
27	Diphtheria, including Mem. Croup.		
0	Typhoid	Enteric Fever	
0	Paratyphoid	Enteric Fever	
30	Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)		
0	Puerperal Fever		
0	Puerperal Pyrexia		
0	Cerebro-Spinal Fever		
0	Acute Poliomyelitis		
0	Acute Polio-Encephalitis		
0	Encephalitis Lethargica		
0	Typhus Fever Relapsing Fever Continued Fever		
0	Dysentery (Amœbia)		
0	Ophthalmia Neonatorum		
13	Erysipelas		
0	Respiratory Tuberculosis (New Cases only).		
0	Other Forms of Tuberculosis (New Cases only).		
0	Contracted in England	Malaria	
0	Contracted Abroad	Malaria	
0	Induced in Institutions	Malaria	
Not Notifiable	Chicken-pox		
Not Notifiable	Measles (excluding German Measles)		
Not Notifiable	Whooping Cough		
0	Other Diseases (please specify)		
0	Smallpox		
24	Scarlet Fever		
27	Diphtheria		
0	Enteric Fever		
0	Other (please specify)		

Seasonal Incidence of Disease 1937.

Disease.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	2	4	4	4	3	0	2	0	3	2	0	0	24
Diphtheria	1	4	2	3	5	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	27
Pneumonia	7	0	3	3	1	4	0	2	2	4	2	2	30

These cases were distributed in the District as follows—

Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Pneumonia.	
Hemsworth	13	Hemsworth	18	Hemsworth	18
Kinsley	3	Kinsley	5	Kinsley	3
Fitzwilliam	9	Fitzwilliam	4	Fitzwilliam	9

In conclusion I wish once more to express my thanks to theMembers of the Council and Officials for the assistance and courtesy which they have extended to me during the past year.

I remain, Mrs. Dooley and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. B. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HEMSWORTH.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1937.

Public Health Department,

Council Offices,

Hemsworth.

To the Members of the Hemsworth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Dooley and Gentlemen,

In accordance with Circular 1650 issued by the Ministry of Health I have much pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year 1937, this being my fifteenth Annual Report.

In the early part of 1937 there was a suspicion of food poisoning in connection with the food provided for the children of the Hemsworth Grammar School. This matter was thoroughly investigated by one of the County Council Medical Officers and myself and 25 specimens of fæces were submitted for bacteriological examination. Negative results were obtained and there has not been any further complaints in connection with this matter.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

No extension of your water services has been found necessary during the year and the supply has been adequate. The water is supplied through the Hemsworth Joint Water Committee and the officers of this body take frequent samples both for chemical and bacteriological examination. The whole of the samples taken have been reported upon and have been satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No extension has been made in connection with Sewers in this district during the year and with the exception of outlying farms and 20 houses which are chiefly situate in the Royd Moor district. the whole of the houses are connected to the Sewer. The houses not connected, all have Cesspools which are emptied by the Council's Cesspool Emptier.

Rivers and Streams.

No complaints have been received in respect of the polution of any streams in your area and it has not been found necessary to take any action in this respect.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year 80 privy middens have been converted into water closets. This work was carried out under my supervision and to my complete satisfaction. At the present time the closet accommodation in your area is as follows:—

Privies	100
Pail Closets	9
Waste Water Closets	6
Water Closets	2,847

The majority of the Privies remaining are connected with houses which it is impossible to drain to the sewers, or outlying farmsteads.

Public Cleansing (Night Soil).

The work of removing night soil was until the latter part of the year carried out by Council workmen comprising 2 men and 1 horse and cart. In the later part of the year the horse was disposed of and the work is now carried out by motor with driver and assistant. The privies are emptied approximately every 10 days and the refuse now taken to the Council's rubbish tip instead of being tipped on farmers' land as was the practice when the horse and cart was employed. No complaint has been received in connection with this work during the year.

Dry Ashes.

Removal of dry ashes is carried out by the Council's workmen with 3 Ford 2 ton covered refuse vehicles. In case of emergency such as after holidays etc., the staff is augmented by the employing of the motor lorry which is used by the Highways department. The Dust Bins are emptied weekly and the whole of the refuse taken to the Council's tip where a system of controlled tipping is in operation. In addition to the Bins being emptied weekly, refuse from the shops, schools, etc., is removed when necessary. The total cost of this work and the disposal thereof amounted to £1,526 3s. 8d. and the cost of removing night soil £333 19s. 11d.

The average number of Bins emptied and removed each week is 2,850 or approximately 950 bins per lorry per week.

Cesspools.

Work of emptying cesspools is now carried out by the Council's Cesspool emptier. The contents of the Cesspool

emptier are conveyed to the nearest Sewerage Works and is then deposited in the main sewer. The cost of emptying each cesspool varies both in proportion to its size and the number of times it is emptied and the total cost for the 20 cesspools in your area was £108.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area (Nuisances).

The total number of inspections made for nuisances totalled 731 which resulted in 234 nuisances being found which were dealt with in the first instance by the serving of Informal Notice upon the persons concerned. It was found necessary to serve Statutory Notice in one instance which notice was complied with without taking legal proceedings. Many nuisances found on the Council's Estates were reported upon by the rent collectors and were dealt with immediately upon receipt by the Housing Estates Department. The Offensive Trades in your area number 20 of which 15 are fish frying, the whole of these Offensive Trades have been carried out satisfactorily.

Shops.

36 Shops have been re-inspected by myself in company with the W.R.C.C. Shops Inspector. In 2 instances insufficient heating was found and as a result of an Informal Notice these were remedied.

Smoke Abatement.

The Smoke Stacks in connection with the local Colliery are the only cause of any offence in this direction. Observations are made from time to time but it has not been found necessary to report any contravention of the Council's Bye-laws. Offensive fumes from the waste tips are still causing a nuisance and while this nuisance is minimised by the Company as much as possible it is not yet overcome.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in your Area but as reported previously there is the Paddling Pool in your Public Park. Eflective measures are taken to see that there is no danger to health to children using this Pool.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

None of the Council houses were reported as infested with Bed Bugs during the year, but three houses belonging to private owners were reported. These houses were dealt with by a contractor and the method adopted in this instance was the removal of all necessary woodwork and thoroughly spraying with insecticide previous to which a plumbers blow lamp was passed over every part where possible trace of bugs could be found. This method has been fairly satisfactory. Re-inspection is made after a period of 24 hours and if necessary a further spraying is carried out.

Schools.

The whole of the Schools in the Area are supplied with water from the Public Water supply and the water carriage system is in operation in every school. When necessary Schools are disinfected and Notice is given to the Head Teachers of schools of any scholar suffering from Infectious Disease.

SECTION D.

Housing.

The overcrowding which exists in your area has not been relieved during the year owing to the fact that the 60 houses at Hemsworth built for the relief of overcrowding have not been completed. It is anticipated that the houses would be ready for occupation in the early part of 1938 and the overcrowded families will then be dealt with as the houses become ready for occupation. 90 Houses at Kinsley are in the course of erection for the purpose of abating

overcrowding in the Kinsley and Fitzwilliam parts of your Area. During the year Closing Orders were made in respect of 9 dwelling houses but it has only been found possible to demolish 2 of these houses owing to the difficulty in finding suitable alternative accommodation for the displaced tenants. There is no doubt that the economic conditions of many of the people mitigates the possibility of their taking houses which are suitable to their needs, which owing to financial circumstances they cannot occupy. The total number of houses still overcrowded at the end of the year totals 136 and the total number of persons dwelling therein totals 993.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

The inspection of the Dairy Farms and cattle in your area is still carried out by the W.R.C.C. Veterinary Staff in company with myself. Bi-yearly inspection of the whole of the farms where milk production is carried on is made and the approximate number of dairy cattle kept is 200. The whole of the conditions have been found to be satisfactory, the only exception being that in one case a cowshed is not up to standard, and this matter is being dealt with in the coming year. I am pleased to report that during the year one producer applied for, and obtained sanction for the production of (Accredited) Milk. This was the first application made in your district and it is hoped that every producer will follow this example. Samples of this milk are being taken by the officers of the W.R.C.C. by whom the Licence is granted. During the year 20 samples of milk have been taken by me for analysis under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and while none were found adulterated three were found deficient in fat and cautions were issued by the W.R.C.C. 10 Samples of milk were also taken for the presence of tuberculosis and of these, 6 were found to be affected. The whole of the facts were reported to the W.R.C.C. and the necessary action was taken by the W.R.C.C. Veterinary Staff.

Meat and Other Foods.

The whole of the Shops, and stalls on your Public Market, where meat and other foods are sold or prepared are systematically inspected. The goods exposed for sale are invariably of high quality. With regard to the slaughter houses in your area they are still, as in former years, 12 in number, and during the year 616 visits were made when slaughtering was taking place. The number of animals slaughtered in this district is very high owing to the fact that a large amount of wholesale business is carried out by the butchers concerned. The actual number of animals killed during the year is as follows:—

Cattle (not including Cows)	1,137
Cows	3,217
Calves	241
Sheep and Lambs	4,523
Pigs	3,225

The total number of carcasses condemned for tuberculosis only was 9 cows, and the carcasses of which some part or organs were condemned for tuberculosis only was 11 cows and 4 pigs. Other diseases except tuberculosis, in which some part of the carcass or organ was condemned totalled 15 Cows, 1 Sheep and 1 Pig. Owing to the large number of animals slaughtered in this district the work of meat inspection takes up a very large amount of time, as it is essential, seeing that the meat is despatched to numerous parts of the West Riding that adequate supervision of all animals slaughtered is made.

I herewith append a summary of visits and inspections made.

Visits and Inspections.

To Infectious Diseases	71
,, Inspection for Nuisances	531
,, Scavenging matters	161

,, Slaughterhouses	616
,, Meat and Food Inspections	164
,, Work in hand	386
,, Housing Inspection	170
,, Re-visits	171
,, Inspection of Privies	24
,, Common Lodging Houses	25
,, Tips	23
,, Investigation—suspected food poisoning	25
,, Farms	66
,, Sampling of Milk	26
,, Petrol Stores	4
,, Shops	36
,, Miscellaneous	152
Total visits	2,652

Rooms disinfected	83
Number of private pigs killed and inspected	9
Number of Licences issued for storage of Carbide	3
Number of Licences issued for storage of Petroleum	12
Number of Complaints received and dealt with	134
Number of Informal Notices served	231
Number of Statutory Notices served	32

In conclusion I wish to tender my thanks to the Members of the Council and to my colleagues and to all others who have assisted in any way in the carrying out of my duties.

I am, Mrs. Dooley and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

SYDNEY FOX, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.